

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is similar to their previous decision to force their stations to not air a public service message honoring the troops who died in the Iraqi war. It takes advantage of their captive audience to spell a view biased by the company owners, without recourse to alternative views.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. We also need truly balanced news, something sorely lacking as media is consolidated and the media owners censor their own product.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.